



MONTEREY NEWS

MAY 1998
VOLUME XXVIII · Number 5



THE TOWN

The Annual Town Meeting will be held May 2, 9:30 a.m., at the Firehouse.

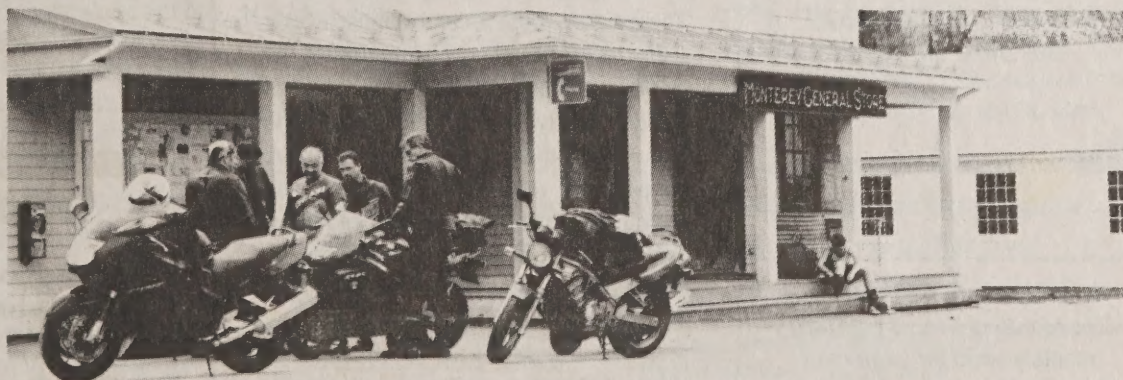
More Woes for SBRSD. As if the Southern Berkshire Regional School District (SBRSD) has not had enough problems surface in the past year, now two more woes have been added to darken the prospects of getting the district back on a sound financial foundation. For one, apparently the assessment of the school budget among the five towns has not been properly distributed in the past, with some towns overcharging residents for their portion of the budget, Monterey being one of them. Adjusting the assessment process could leave Sheffield with 52% of the taxes due, to match their 52% of the students attending SBRSD, while the balance is proportionally assessed to the other four towns. In the past the capital formula, rather than attendance by town, has been applied in order to salvage essential school programs. Superintendent William Cooper, and district Business Manager Kevin Fox, met with the Board and audience at the April 21 quarterly meeting of town boards to explain the complications. Cooper said that if the assessment process is flawed, it will be difficult to stick to the rule that requires only four of the five towns to pass the budget.

The budget deficit discovered last year has already saddled the district with about a \$100,000 pay-back plan per year. Fox explained that the district has received word from the state that the grant for assistance in paying for the school building has been over-paid and hence the district will have to come up with the difference to pay off the capital debt. The year 2011 is the prospectus for the debt being satisfied. Cooper expressed concern for district students who will be in the schools during the financially stressful years. He expressed what others also seem to feel; that the twenty-five million dollar new school was probably too much for the tax base of the five towns to have taken on. In terms of marketing to school choice students, Cooper pointed out that Mount Everett is in the far western corner of the state, between New York and Connecticut, which makes it geographically only able to draw students from the north.

Superintendent Cooper expressed the belief that the five towns will work together to solve these problems which must be resolved. The Annual Town Meeting to be held May 2 will surely clarify these issues.

Mini Town Meeting, held April 24, gave Select Board chair Peter Brown the opportunity to explain all the warrant items. There will be a meeting April 28 of select board and school committee members from all five towns with the Massachusetts Department of Education and SBRSD administrators. It is hoped that this meeting will clarify the problems and possible solutions that can be communicated to the town on May 2. There was no debate on warrant articles at this meeting, but articles 21, 22, and 23 caused a stir and debate on these issues promises to be lively: respectively, the destiny of the Edith Wilson House, a non-partisan town caucus for the nomination of candidates for town offices, and the separation of the Board of Health from the Select Board. Roger Tryon brought up the issue of "free money" (that which is in excess from other budget items) being voted for other uses at Special Town Meetings. He pointed out that the town votes on how town money should be spent once a year at the Annual Meeting when all are focused on those decisions and that, except for an emergency, those decisions should only be made at that time. There were nods of approval.

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Unusually warm temperatures provided perfect weather for this group of touring motorcycles from Westfield, as well as the unknown in-line skater in the background.

Monterey Church Encouraged. On March 30, Kathy Page Wasiuk thanked the Board for its support of the grant application to the Massachusetts Historical Commission which has been approved and will provide matching funds for \$100,000 of exterior renovations. Among other needs, attention will be given to reinforcing the foundation, handicapped access to steps and bathroom, and the belfry, which is so rotten that if the bell were to be rung, it would fall down. Wasiuk said encouragement for saving the Church/Meeting House was possible because of Town support and State Senator Andrea Nuciforo's help in Boston.

Linking Needs with Services. Pauline Nault, Monterey's Chair for the Council on Aging, appeared before the Board April 6 to discuss the needs of Monterey's 182 senior citizens. She said the greatest task of her position is to match the needs of particular individuals with the many services and grants that are available. This is a formidable job which requires more time and energy than she feels she is able to devote. Pres-

ently, Monterey receives \$2900 in assistance for the aging. She spoke of the urgent need for transportation of the elderly to doctor's appointments, suggesting volunteer drivers.

I Love Monterey Day. On July 11 there will be a rejuvenation of I Love Monterey Day. This day also celebrates the one-hundredth birthday of Rock Ridge and the eighty-fifth anniversary of Gould Farm. There will be all sorts of entertainment in Town: a contradance with Joe Baker and Bonner McAllester's Mountain Laurel Band; a picnic provided by Gould Farm; a hike on the new trail blazed by the Monterey Preservation Land Trust on the Mount Hunger property; also, contests, games, and more.

Miscellany. Regarding discussion about article 23 of the Warrant, which would establish a separate Board of Health, (i.e. not having the board as an automatic extension of the Select Board). Select Board Chair Peter Brown has responded with the comment that he agrees the combining of the boards' duties takes a prodigious amount of time; however, he says that the combination of the two boards leaves no room for second guessing on important decisions. Alternatives could be a Health Board appointed by the Select Board or an individual Select Board member appointing his/her own replacement to the Board of Health.

The Select Board has responded to the Massachusetts Environmental Police nullifying the jet ski ban (*Monterey News*, April '98) by saying the Environmental Police will be called to report infractions on the lakes.

Response to the inquiry, (*Monterey News*, April) "Who are these outsiders?" The residents both for and against jet skis seem to feel that poorly mannered jet skiers on Lakes Buel and Garfield are not those who live nearby, but those who come from other towns and seem to have no personal regard for the safety and tranquility of their fellow water enthusiasts. Those who made this point have no objection to visitors to the lakes, only to the observed behavior of some who deny pleasure and safety to responsible jet skiers, fishermen, swimmers, water skiers, and boaters.

— Jane Black

MEMORIAL DAY PARADE

Monterey's annual Memorial Day Parade will held on Monday, May 25, at 1:00 p.m. The parade will begin at the junction of Route 23 and Sandisfield Road. The parade will proceed to the center of Town where a memorial observance will be conducted, and continue to the town gazebo behind the Firehouse. After the parade there will be a barbecue of hotdogs and sodas behind the Firehouse, and outstanding local entertainment will be featured for all townspeople and participants.

All Monterey veterans are invited to march in the parade. If you would like to be a part of this Memorial Day observance please contact Maryellen Brown at the Town Hall, 528-1443.

— Muriel Lazzarini
Monterey Select Board

NOTICE

The summer hours for the Monterey Transfer Station will commence on Sunday, April 5, 1998, as follows:

Sunday: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Wednesday: 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.
(unchanged)
Saturday: 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.
(unchanged)

Applications for authorized users vehicles may be obtained at the Town Hall during regular business hours; completed applications, together with the fee, may be mailed or left at the Town Hall. The sticker will be mailed to the applicant.

— Monterey Select Board

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FIREMAN'S BLOTTER

Happy spring from the Monterey Fire Company. During the winter the Monterey Fire Co. purchased two semi-automatic heart defibrillators. A defibrillator is an electronic device that electrically shocks the heart back into its normal rhythm following a heart attack. **Time is critical:** the chances of survival following a heart attack are greatest when the patient's heart is defibrillated within ten minutes of the heart attack. Therefore, if you or someone else is having chest pains of any kind, don't wait, call 911 immediately.

During the summer we will be conducting vehicle extrication and "Jaws of Life" training. This training includes actually cutting apart cars and removing mock patients from the vehicle. We are looking for one or two intact cars (preferably in running condition) for this training. If you have a vehicle you would like to donate, contact the Monterey Fire Co.

We are already thinking about the twenty-first annual Monterey Fire Co. Steak Roast, our annual fund raiser. The Monterey Fire Co. is a volunteer fire and rescue organization whose members leave their families and jobs to help their neighbors; now we are asking for your help. Please save the date of Saturday, July 25, for the Steak Roast. Each year a member of the Fire Co. tries to personally visit your home. This makes it convenient for you to purchase Steak Roast tickets, and gives you the opportunity to ask us questions about the Monterey Fire Co. Due to busy schedules, it is possible that we will miss you at home. If so, you can purchase your Steak Roast tickets at the Monterey General Store. This year we are featuring the twelve-piece Don Bastarak Orchestra playing big-band music of the forties and fifties. There will be a larger dance space, so brush up on your dance steps. This entertainment will, of course, be included in the price of your dinner ticket, which is \$18 (the same price as last year). Those who cannot attend the dinner are welcome to dance following dinner for a \$5 cover charge.

— Del Martin



Monterey's men and women in blue. Firefighters last Memorial Day in parade dress, were, from left to right, Mark Makuc, Rick Prue, Tom Adrus Sr., Ken Dempsey, Patrick Sheridan, Fran Huberman, Paul Makuc, Keith Ives, Del Martin, Scott Sheridan, Shawn Tryon, and Maynard Forbes.

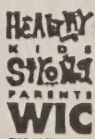
FIREHOUSE IN ACTION

Firehouse Dance. Don't miss out on the fabulous *Swing Into Summer* dance at the Firehouse on Saturday, May 23, from 7:30.-11:00 p.m. As of press time tickets were still available, but space is limited so there will be plenty of room for dancers to "swing into summer!" Tickets for the event are thirty dollars per couple, and can be purchased by sending a check to, Firehouse Dancers, P.O. Box 706, Monterey, MA 01245. For more information contact Del Martin at 528-9480.

Flea Market Extravaganza. The Monterey Fire Co. is hosting a Flea Market on Saturday, June 20, from 8

a.m. to 3 p.m. Vendors are wanted, such as crafters and merchants, and we are also seeking tag sale items, auto sales, antiques and more. There will be food available all day. In 1996 over 600 people browsed the wares on hand. Call Karen Hutson, 528-4902, to reserve space.

Speaking of the Flea Market, the Fire Co. is also seeking items for donation. Recreational and sports equipment, garden and yard tools, household items, holiday decorations, furniture, antiques — this is a chance to unburden yourself of articles that you don't need, but are good enough for resale. Just think of the closet and attic cleaning that you can accomplish, and it will benefit the Fire Co.! For more information contact Dan Andrus at 528-5444.



Free food and nutrition information to pregnant women, infants and children under five.

Women, Infants, & Children Program

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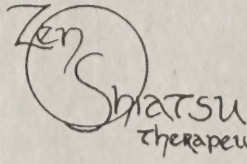
The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Department of Public Health

54 Castle Street
Gt. Barrington, MA 01230
(413) 528 0457

MONTEREY NATURE WALKS

A series of four nature walks will be offered in June for children ages 6-12. The group will be limited to the first ten who register and the fee will be \$10 per child for the whole series. Please note that this year for the first time these walks will take place on four consecutive mornings, June 15-18, from 9 to 10:30 a.m.

Bonner McAllester will conduct the walks and they will take place rain or shine, meeting at the Monterey Meeting House (United Church of Christ) social room (basement), which will serve as a classroom some of the time. The four walks constitute a course in the natural history of Monterey, and children are asked to register for all four mornings if possible. This project is supported in part by a grant from the Monterey Cultural Council, a local agency supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council. Call Bonner McAllester at 528-9385 for further information and to sign up.



Lauren Paul **413-258-4296**
Aromatherapy and Reiki Treatment also available

HEALTH INSURANCE INFO

If you are under sixty five and having problems getting health care, or are concerned about someone who is, the Children's Health Program would like to hear about it. Representatives Anne Rosen and Maria Bravo-Clay will be at the Town Hall on Saturday, May 9, from 10:30 - 1:30 to gather information. They want to let people know about some expanded programs being offered by MassHealth, often at no cost to the consumer. The programs are available for men and women, with or without jobs or existing insurance, families with children, and young adults. For further information please call Anne or Maria at CHP (528-5045).

— Anne Rosen

COUNCIL ON AGING

May luncheon. The Monterey Council on Aging will host a luncheon at noon on Friday, May 22, in the basement of the Town Hall. Members of the Monterey Grange are cordially invited to attend.

Free cholesterol and blood pressure testing: Screenings will be administered on Tuesday, May 19 from 9-10:30 a.m. in the basement of the Town Hall. This service, provided by the Berkshire Visiting Nurse Association and Fairview Hospital, is available to all age groups.

— Pauline Nault

NEW MARLBOROUGH CENTRAL AND MONTEREY SCHOOL

The Monterey Kindergarten and New Marlborough Central (NMC) are recipients of Janet's Fund grants. Janet's Fund is named for the late Janet Thieriot, a Monterey resident and alumna of the Southern Berkshire Regional School District. The Fund's stated purpose is to "continue supporting initiatives that will add to the existing programs and stretch and enrich the experience of students of the district." The kindergarten will receive funding for four workshops to make costumes and props for the annual end-of-the-year student recital. The students act out and recite poetry they have been learning all year and costuming is an integral part of their production.

NMC received a grant for an all-school gardening project. Phase one will provide in-class modules for growing plants. (It's hoped that they will be able to provide fresh greens for the cafeteria salad bar!) Phase two will be a greenhouse to be erected on school grounds. Congratulations to both schools for two exciting projects.

Starting with the three sisters garden last year, gardening has become a popular activity at NMC. A garden cart and kid-sized gloves and tools were purchased with classroom discretionary funds provided by the PTA. This year's garden is well underway. Lettuce has been started indoors, but radishes and red and white onions are already planted outside.

The Save The Rainforest T-shirt sale has been a great success. Over \$2,000 was raised and fifteen acres of Guatemalan rainforest will remain untouched forever due to the efforts of the students and their supporters at NMC.

The students in Mrs. Pottle's 3/4 class have been working for another worthy cause a little closer to home. Catrina Carolan, Ray Duryea, Erin McGinley, Krysten Scapin, Emily Shaw, and Steven Beckwith participated in the St. Jude's Hospital Mathathon. They raised over \$600.00—Steven alone brought in \$226.00. Great job everyone.

— Deborah Mielke



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THE QUILTERS ARE BACK!

Actually, the quilters only stopped to catch their collective breath. After a few months rest, some of the women who created last year's sesquicentennial wall quilt re-grouped, enriched their ranks with new members, and took up their needles again.

This time they have created a queen-sized quilt which will be raffled to benefit the Monterey Meetinghouse Capital Campaign. The center squares showcase blocks which depict individual interpretations of colorful local flowers.



Hands working on a quilt by MaryKate Jordan.

The quilt's creators, Barbara Tryon, Pam Johnson, Carol Zarlin, Gige O'Connell, Anita Carroll-Weldon, Glynis Oliver, Jan Emmons, Kathy Bracken, Teresa O'Brien and MaryKate Jordan, call themselves "the Monterey Piecemakers." They are currently stitching patterns into the borders of the quilt, which they also designed, appliqued and pieced.

The quilt will be on display at various locations during the summer. Although the policy is "look but don't touch," dreaming of taking the quilt home and the purchase of raffle tickets are both encouraged.

Sales of raffle tickets (\$2 each or a book of 6 for \$10) will begin during the Memorial Day Parade and will continue until shortly before the raffle is held on Labor Day weekend.

Watch for updates on the quilt, and watch for the Monterey Piecemakers in the Memorial Day Parade!

THE BIDWELL HOUSE

The month of May marks the annual opening for the Bidwell House museum. This year tours will begin on Saturday, May 23 and the museum will follow it's regular schedule of tours from 11:00 - 4:00, Tuesday through Sunday, until October 15.

Also on May 23 The Bidwell House will be holding an Heirloom Tomato Planting Workshop at 1:00 p.m. The workshop will cover how to plant and cultivate heirloom tomatoes and talk about the history of these plants as well

as heirloom vegetables in general. Examples and techniques for traditional vegetable trellises and staking will be taught. There will be heirloom tomato plants for sale, including "Trucker's Favorite" which was voted the best tomato in last year's tomato tasting. Admission for the workshop is

\$3 for adults and \$1 for children. For further information call 528-6888.

— Anita Carroll-Weldon

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

The Conservation Commission has recently published a nifty three-fold brochure that outlines "Important Steps Before You Get A Building Permit," which will be available at the Town Hall (and other locations around town, to be announced). The brochure is readable and clear in its presentation of information regarding the Wetlands Protection Act (WPA) and the Rivers Protection Act (RPA), both of which are wide-ranging in their impact and contain detailed language.

The Conservation Commission hopes to get the word to citizens that *any work* within 200 feet of a stream or river requires the property owner to file with the Conservation Commission. Additionally, work outside of the 200 foot zone that will alter the resource of the river or stream, such as topsoil washing into the body of water, will trigger Conservation Commission involvement.

As agents of the citizens of Monterey, the Conservation Commission is committed to helping people obtain the necessary permits to lawfully complete their projects. The waters and wetlands of Monterey are an important natural resource, and the WPA and the RPA are a method of safeguarding these resources for the health and benefit of all.

— Chris Blair

Conservation Commission

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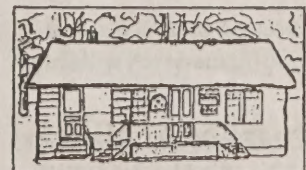
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-- Matthew Brewer, a Roadside regular

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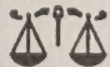
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LAND TRUST NEWS

Only three Saturdays and we have nearly completed the 2,600 foot trail which, when finished, will complete phase one of our SIP grant (Stewardship Incentive Program). Trail marking, hole filling, some big rock removal and vista clearing remain to be done. We hope some of you will go have a look. Or even better come on a Saturday morning and, if we are still at work, lend a hand. We park on Mount Hunger Road, in a clearing on the left just about a mile east of Tyringham Road.

We have just learned to our delight that we are to be part of "I Love Monterey Day." Our Annual Meeting is scheduled for that day—July 11. Noting this, a member of the committee asked if we would lead a hike on our new trail as part of the festivities. We are pleased as punch to do so. That event should take place following the business meeting which begins at 11:00 a.m. I would assume that the hike will start around noon. If you like, bring a picnic that you can tote for half a mile or so. We hope that all holes will be filled in by then, and that it will be pretty smooth walking.

Suzanne Hoppenstedt and Lew Scheffey are our special honorees; they showed up every time. Storrs Olds is definitely to be honored too. He only

missed once to attend a Conservation Conference at our behest. Carol Husten and friends get honorable mention. They searched for and to their supreme disappointment, couldn't find us on that first Saturday - the only Saturday they would be here for awhile. I know it's so, because I dropped by Carol's after we had finished, and although she wasn't there, her car was filled with all sorts of heavy-duty trail blazing equipment. Thanks for trying Carol and friends.

All and all, we have had twelve people working on our Mount Hunger trail. Our latest volunteers (those not mentioned in last month's news) are Mary Brock, Peter Murkett, Bob Rausch and Peter Vallianos. John Humphrey was a worker and uplifter, as well as a super photographer that first time. I think he left himself out of the "mentioned" last month and such modesty just won't do. We have also had some promisees, and we look forward to seeing them on coming Saturdays.

Twelve is not as many as we had hoped for, but as Spencer Tracy said of Katherine Hepburn, "not a lot of her, but what there is, is cherce." It is pretty thrilling what a few good men and women can accomplish in under nine hours. A very "cherce" group! Thanks everybody.

— Joyce Scheffey



Hi mom! At Rawson Brook Farm Blanca, who makes motherhood look like a snap, turned for a first look at her new kid.

"CHANCING ONE'S ARM"

A First Step To Reconciliation

During President Clinton's African trip last month, a couple of incidents stood out in my mind. The first was his visit to Robben's Island with President Nelson Mandela of South Africa. While President Clinton wondered aloud at Nelson Mandela's release from nearly two decades imprisonment without visible embitterment of heart and spirit, President Mandela was admonishing Bill Clinton to embark on a diplomatic path of conversation and openness with his enemies in Libya, Iraq, Cuba and elsewhere. President Clinton was being challenged to consider reconciliation rather than confrontation and isolation and embargo. Challenging and powerful words, considering the source!

The second, was again on an island, Goree, off the west African coast of Senegal. While President Clinton was peering out the door so many slaves passed through on their horrendous journey to the Americas, something prevented him from allowing personal compassion for the slaves being shipped to the United States to override diplomatic expediency. So there was no apology.

Healing and reconciliation require great risks. In Stephen Mitchell's book "The Gospel According to Jesus," he writes the following: "The more open hearted we are, the more we can experience the whole universe as God's grace. Forgiveness is essentially openness of heart. It is an attitude, not an action." [p. 55] Diplomacy, whether between individuals or nations, requires such an openness.

In St. Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin, Ireland, there is "The Door of Reconciliation." The story goes that in 1492 two prominent families, the Ormonds and Kildares, were in the midst of a bitter feud. Besieged by Gerald Fitzgerald Earl of Kildare, Sir James Butler, Earl of Ormond, and his followers took refuge in the chapter house of St. Patrick's Cathedral, bolting themselves in. As the siege wore on, the Earl of Kildare concluded that the feuding was foolish. Here were two families worshipping the same God, in the same church, living in the same

country, trying to kill each other. So he called out to Sir James and, as a inscription in St. Patrick's says today, "undertook on his honour that he should receive no villanie."

Wary of "some further treacherie" Ormond did not respond. So Kildare seized his spear, cut away a hole in the door and thrust his hand through. It was grasped by another hand inside the church, the door was opened and the two men embraced, thus ending the feud.

The expression "chancing one's arm" originated with Kildare's noble gesture. There is a lesson here for all of us who are engaged in "family feuds", whether brother to brother, sister to sister, language to language, religion to religion, nation to nation. If one of us would dare to "chance his or her arm", perhaps that would be the first crucial step to the reconciliation we all unconsciously seek.

In order for that to happen we must come to peace with parents, lovers, friends, and enemies, and with the most difficult, unlovable parts of ourselves. The more we can fully accept them and let them go, the more love and light we allow into our hearts and relationships. Think of the implications for President Clinton's domestic and foreign policies. Think of the implications for our personal lives and relationships!

— Keith Snow, Pastor
Monterey United Church of Christ



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Keith Snow, Pastor

For Information and Assistance:

Judy Hayes

528-1874

MaryKate Jordan

528-5557

THE FAMILY NETWORK/ CHILDREN'S HEALTH, INC.

The Family Center is located at 940 South Main Street, Great Barrington; call 528-0721 for more information. All activities are at the Family Center unless otherwise noted.

Thanks to our volunteers, the lending library is better organized. Some new additions include *Juggling*, by Faye J. Crosby, a book about balancing career and home, the videos *Your New Baby*, *Your New Life*; *Your Pregnancy*, *Your Plan*; *Childhood 101*, *Warming Up - Gentle Exercises*; and *Setting Limits With Children*. We have also added an audiotope component to the lending library. Put an audiotope in your car tape deck and listen as you drive. (As you know, we do a lot of driving in Berkshire County). Some topics are: *How To Raise Happy Confident Kids*; *The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People* by Stephen Covey; and *You Can Negotiate Anything* by Herb Cohen.

With the beginning of warmer weather after a long cold winter, families thoughts turn to swimming and the need for children to feel confident around water. Swim America of

Western Massachusetts offers classes for parents and children at Berkshire Meadows in Great Barrington, and Berkshire West in Pittsfield. These are ongoing. For more information please call 413-528-6619.

South Berkshire WIC (Women's Infants and Children nutrition program) is having a raffle for Big Apple Circus tickets. Children between the ages of twelve and twenty-four months with up-to-date immunizations can register for the raffle. Please call 413-528-0457 for more information. Drawing will be held June 30.

The Family Network has compiled a lot of the WIC and playgroup recipes in our most recent cookbook. Free copies are available at the Family Center and the playgroup sites.

The clothing exchanges are accepting seasonal children's clothing only! We have limited storage space. Thank you for all your help!

The Lenox Parent Child Playgroup has moved to the Lenox Community Center for the rest of this school year.

Here is our calendar.

Great Barrington Family Center drop-in times: Mondays noon-2p.m.; Tuesdays and Fridays 3-5 p.m.; Wednesdays and Thursdays 10 a.m.-noon. The Family Center will be closed

May 25 - Memorial Day. No drop-in May 5 due to a special program.

Drop-in times for the Family Center at the Otis Town Hall, second floor: Thursdays 10 a.m.-noon.

Every Monday and Friday, Play and Learn Group for three and four year olds, registration required 9 a.m.-noon.

Every Monday at 7 p.m. Fathers Group meeting.

Every Tuesday, Mother-Baby exercise class, 8:30 a.m. Pre-registration is required and childcare is provided. Please call to register.

Every Wednesday and Thursday, Parent-Child Playgroup 9:30-11:30 a.m. Families are encouraged to attend any playgroup or more than one a week. Call for playgroup schedules in other towns.

May 4 and 18, Father-Child drop in, 5:30 p.m., light supper provided.

May 5, support group of licensed day care providers 7 p.m.

May 5, Safety and Injury Prevention for the Pre-School years. This workshop is co-sponsored by Massachusetts Prevention Center and Family Network 3: 30-5:30 p.m. Call Deborah Epstein at the Prevention Center to register, 413-584-3880 ext. 119.

May 6, Breastfeeding Support Group 9:30 a.m., Center For Pediatric and

Peter S. Vallianos
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Fairview Hospital 528-8580

May 6, 13, 20, storytime at the Otis Library, led by Debora O'Brien 2:45-3:15 p.m. Co-sponsored by the Otis Arts Council and The Family Network.

May 6, Family Network Advisory Board meeting 12:15 p.m., a light lunch will be provided.

May 8, Robot Zoo visit, Berkshire Museum 2 p.m., \$4 per person. There will be some passes available. This event is co-sponsored by the Lenox Arts Council and the Family Network. Please call to register.

May 9, storytime at the Sandisfield Community Center, led by Kathleen Bracken 10 a.m. This event is co-sponsored by the Sandisfield Arts Council and the Family Network.

May 10, Happy Mothers' Day! Give Your Mother a Hug!

May 11, Pizza and paper airplanes, Father-child activity 5:30 p.m. Please call to register.

May 13, Creative Memories, level one workshop, led by Roxanne Germain. Learn how to organize and store your photos in safe and meaningful photo albums. Bring 6-10 photographs to create a personal page 6:30-9 p.m. Fee, \$10. Please call to register.

May 14, Baby Massage led by Vicki Guy, physical therapist. Bring your baby and learn of some soothing techniques to make baby feel better 1 p.m. Please call to register.

May 21, Discipline workshop led by Bob Boylston, MSW, Otis Town Hall, second floor, 11:30 a.m. Childcare provided, call Loren at 258-0240.

May 22, Visit animals and picnic at Gould Farm. Meet at red barns at 10:30 a.m. Wear boots, bring a picnic snack.

May 28, Stand For Children event, a picnic for volunteers and families, French Park, Egremont 5-8 p.m. R.S.V.P. the Family Center. There will be supper and lots of activities. Come join us for fun for the whole family. Rain date, June 4.

May 29, picnic at the Sandisfield Community Center. Bring a picnic lunch, rain or shine 10 a.m.-noon.

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SENATOR SAYS

Boards of Health Deserve Support. Many people have told me about the valuable services provided by Boards of Health throughout western Massachusetts. A letter I received recently from Scott B. Krzanik, Vice President of the Berkshire County Boards of Health Association helped me to appreciate the effectiveness of these Boards of Health in communities small and large. Part-time volunteers do much of the public health work for small towns without the benefit of staff assistance, and Mr. Krzanik's letter noted how hard it is for volunteer members of local Boards of Health in western Massachusetts to travel to Springfield or Boston to attend seminars and educational programs offered by state agencies. Mr. Krzanik urged me to ease access to information for local public health officials by ensuring that educational programs are offered in this part of the state.

Members of Boards of Health provide vital services, making inspections at restaurants, schools, Bed & Breakfasts, landfills, etc. as well as responding to litter and nuisance complaints, conducting perc tests and making lead paint determinations. Indeed, Boards of Health in Massachusetts are charged with maintaining over three dozen categories of public records, and carrying out responsibilities in the areas of housing, food quality, water quality, solid waste dis-

posal and communicable diseases. The rabies problem and changes in Title 5 (septic) regulations have presented new challenges in recent years. Usually all of these duties are attended to after

these local officials have put in a full day's work at their regular jobs. These local officials need and deserve a wide range of services, ranging from education in their areas of responsibility, to assistance with grant applications, to occasional consultant or staff support for major tasks.

Franklin Regional Council of Governments Supports Health Boards' Efforts. One part of my senatorial district is enjoying the benefits of a growing network of services to support the special needs of local Boards of Health. The Franklin County Commission received a state grant two years ago to design a model for regionalized public health services for the twenty six municipalities of the Franklin region. Last year, the Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG) followed up by creating a regional health inspection pilot project. With a combination of municipal, COG and state funds, an experienced, full-time regional health agent was hired to provide professional assistance in communities throughout the region. Each community was allotted fifteen free hours of the health agent's services, and could purchase additional days at a discounted price of \$98 per day during a trial period. The \$98 price

tag is about half the actual cost for a day of the health agent's time, and future user fees will be met through grant support, inspection fees passed on to new developments during the permitting process, and local user fees paid on a fee-for-service basis.

The pilot regional health services program also offers local workshops whose topics were identified through a survey of member communities. The 1997-1998 series for Boards of Health included seminars on indoor air quality, lead poisoning prevention, domestic violence, food service inspections, housing inspections and alternative septic systems. Fees ranged from free to \$15 per person per workshop, depending on co-sponsorship.

The Community Health Program in the Franklin region offers useful services, it is responsive to local needs, and it is designed to fairly distribute costs among users and local, regional and state resources. This is how regional service delivery should work. And don't feel left out if you don't live in the Franklin region: Program Manager Phoebe Walker at FRCOG says the workshops can be offered in the Berkshire, Hampden and Hampshire regions if there is enough interest to cover the costs of the program. Please feel free to contact my district office at 442-6810 or call Ms. Walker at (413) 774-3167 if you would like more information.

Recycling for Public Schools.

The Department of Environmental Protection promotes waste reduction and recycling as a means to save municipal money, reduce the need for landfills and incinerators, and create jobs and economic value. The agency's Recycling Education Assistance for Public Schools (REAPS) brings fun, age-appropriate activities to Massachusetts classrooms to spread the word about the benefits of waste reduction. For more information about REAPS, contact my district office or Nichole Cirillo at DEP (617) 574-68 65.

Senator Andrea F. Nuciforo, Jr.

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REP RAP

Last month I attended a legislative breakfast sponsored by the Berkshire County Councils on Aging. During this event we discussed items in the budget and legislation that seniors would like to see enacted that would improve their quality of life. To that end I would like to inform you about the Home Modification Bill of which I am a cosponsor.

The Home Modification Bill creates a revolving loan pool and grant program that is targeted to low and moderate income people in Massachusetts who themselves are disabled, families which include a disabled child or senior citizens. The funds are to be used to make necessary alterations to apartments or homes so disabled individuals or senior citizens may continue to live in their own home rather than an institution. The bill's language was included in the Fiscal Year 1998 House Supplemental budget and the program was funded at \$2.4 million dollars.

The measure makes sense on many levels. By enabling people to stay in their own homes we are allowing people to maintain a crucial link to their families and community while ensuring their independence. This can only enhance the quality of life everyone wants and deserves. For example, the home modification language would allow funding for modifications in the home of an elderly man who can not use the stairs safely. Funds could be used to create living space on the first floor of the



Campfire kids in last year's Memorial Day parade were one of the many groups that helped usher in Monterey's summer-long sesquicentennial celebration.

home thus allowing him to stay in the house he purchased with his wife. Now this man can enjoy his golden years with his wife in the comfort of their own home rather than in a nursing home.

The language I advocated for makes sense because it is also economically sound. Take for instance a fifteen year old boy who has been disabled since birth and uses a wheel chair. By providing funds for a ramp into the home, widening doorways and making the bathroom accessible the boy can live at home rather than going to a state institution. The cost of moving a child there would be at least

\$137,000 a year to the state. Obviously the costs of repairs to the home are significantly less and represent a one-time fee. Furthermore the benefits of staying at home increase the boy's ability to function as a productive member of his family and community.

As you can see, the benefits of this proposed program represent a sound economic and human investment. The language is supported by over sixty elderly, disability and family organizations in Massachusetts. The Senate now must include the home modification measure and funding in its supplemental budget or it will be an item for the conference committee to resolve.

Please know I will continue to advocate for this item as it promotes independent living. If you should have any questions about this or any other matter please do not hesitate to contact my full-time district office at (413)243-0289.

—Rep. Christopher J. Hodgkins



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*As the last coin is counted
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Love has truly minted
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— Alice O. Howell-Andersen

LIFE OF A ROSE GARDENER

*born in this
world is a
rose-s need care and
prayer is conver-
sation is the soul of
relationship is all there
is is no - mind-
ful of every step-
ping lightly with a big
heart held out to you my
dear as pussywillows from the
barrens is the home of all
seasons sew the borders of the
breath is
ahhh ... now you are
everywhere is
born in this*

for Walter Anderson, a saint
— R. Zukowski

PRAYER BREAKFAST

in memory of Walter Andersen

*From
The gentle, sweet mouth
of the beardless santa claus
Would always come
The loveliest words.*

*Eighty-six years
of living through
The Heaven and Hell of it
Leavened and seasoned him
for nourishment, not gall.*

*We sat
in their circle
(He and his soul-mate)
And fed off of them
while they spun elegant thoughts:*

*Optimistic, yet firm
nuggets
that we could take
like communion wafers
every first Tuesday.*

— Laura Gaccione

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Faces with smiles
Or serious thinking,
Chatting or silent,
All with great interest
Prompting their presence.
Called now to order,
The meeting flowed fully;
Expressions of views
Restrained and yet forceful,
Differing, reasoned;
Counting of hands,
Declaring results;
Delight, disapproval
Uniting in calm
Amid exit of nays
As the ayes stayed on
For the items to come;
Expert the gavel
Dividing agenda
In clear punctuation,
No dragging delay.*

*Another fine memory -
Glad that I went.*

— Beryl I. McAllester

*One key
An instrument
Of elaborate incisions
One lock
A pattern
Of intricate reflection
A match, a mate
Specific
To each other*

*One fits
The dark of the other
Every hollow, every peak,
Meshes to a mirror
Of itself*

*The key presses
The lock answers
Responds
The hidden wards
Tumble
Slip smooth into place
A solution
An admission*

*Apart
They are nothing
Mysterious, obscure,
Together
They are flawless,
Perfectly complete*

*One is made
For the other*

— Nick Hardcastle

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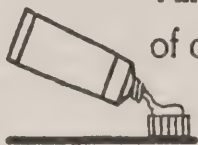
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Route 23 Monterey

WILDLIFE SURVEY

March went out like a lamb this year—maybe a lamb from some tropical place. The unusual spring heat wave with temperatures in the mid-80's caused snowmelt and flooding and must have hurried along some of our annual signs of spring.

Trees and smaller plants. Colts-foot, that leafless dandelion look alike, was first spotted blooming along Route 23 on April 8. On April 19 it was blooming there still and had shown up also on Hupi Road in the gravel on the shoulder. By the time it has gone to seed it will be sending up its characteristic hoof-shaped leaves, said to have valuable medicinal properties. Ellen Pearson had hepatica and bloodroot blooming at her place on Enchanted Rock on April 14, also false hellebore up about four inches in the boggy places. Bonner McAllester found live-forever just up through the leaf-lit-

ter on her place on April 12 and bloodroot blooming on Hupi Road on April 17.

The red maples had burst their flower buds by April 6 here in Monterey and the sugar maples followed suit a week later, with their warm green version of early tree blossoms. At lower elevations in Great Barrington the shad (service berry) bloomed April 11 and its clouds of white floated into the spring woods here in Monterey on April 18.

On April 16 Sudi Baker spotted the first yellow violet in the woods up on Mount Hunger on the Land Trust trail. On this same trail there were thousands of trout lily leaves piercing the fallen tree leaves of '97, and spring beauties were in bloom, with their delicate pink parallel lines guiding the pollinating insects in along the snowy-to-pink petals. Cora Baker found a stash of black cherry pits against the base of a sugar maple tree.

In David and Beryl McAllester's woods the hobble bush was in tight bud on April 10, also along Route 23. By April 19 a branch cut the week before was in full bloom on the Baker-McAllester kitchen table. Red trilliums were well up and in big bud as of April 19 in east Monterey.

Cowslips (marsh marigolds) were up and green on the east end of Lake Garfield April 16 and Sudi Baker noticed a patch in full yellow blossom three days earlier along Blue Hill Road between the Oldses' house and the Dyer-Bennet driveway.

Birds. Bonner McAllester heard a winter wren on Mount Hunger April 16 and saw a hermit thrush that same day. Woodcocks have been heard in Monterey since the last week in March and were still giving their courtship displays at Gould Farm April 4. Ellen Pearson reports a great blue heron flying over her place about April 1, with its feet trailing out behind, also two ruffed grouse crossing Sandisfield Rd.

Ann McGinley has had tree swallows and chickadees competing for her blue-bird nestbox and Barbara Tryon reports one very early tree swallow visiting all her nestboxes one after the other by the end of March. The bluebirds are back at Lowland Farm and Dick Tryon saw a pair coming out of the shed there. The

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killdeer were back early at Lowland Farm also, by late March, and Barbara has seen a bright yellow gold finch in full breeding plumage by the second week in April. One such flashy finch visited the Baker-McAllester feeder about this time also.

Joe Baker heard a Louisiana water thrush on April 14 and Bonner heard a white-throated sparrow on that day. At this time there were also a pair of wood ducks and a pair of wild mallards on the pond at David and Beryl McAllester's place.

Storrs and Shirley Olds had a red-bellied woodpecker at their house on April 6 and have been hearing pileated woodpeckers, and up at the Bidwell House Anita Carroll-Weldon reports hearing many barred owls calling this time of year, some in response to Tom Weldon who likes to mimic the owls' "Who cooks for you? Who cooks for you-all?"

Turkeys are all over town, the toms gobbling and strutting, the hens getting ready for nesting in early May. Bonner and Sudi and Cora saw a male in full fan of tail just off Tyingham Road April 15.

Mammals. Porcupines are in the news lately, also in the noses of Ellen Pearson's dogs, both beagles and Catahoula Coonhound (the state dog of Louisiana). Ellen has seen porcupines along Sandisfield Road and Ann McGinley has seen them both on Mount Hunger Road and on Route 23 near Cathy Roth and Vicki Reed's house, on April 13. Tom and Anita of Bidwell House saw a bobcat on Tyingham Road in early April and Dale Duryea says that Mary Bynack has heard a red fox barking.

Also barking have been coyote pups at Tryons' Lowland Farm, all afternoon long on April 13. Perhaps their mom had left them in order to go swimming. Brian Snyder saw an adult coyote swimming in a leisurely manner in the Konkapot River at Gould Farm. The coyote appeared to be in good health when it finished swimming and left the river.

Dale reports a call from Melissa Mishcon who had a bear at her place on April 10, at the big bend in Route 23 known as Keyes Corner, a mile and half east of town. The bear was after birdseed and garbage and got quite a lot of both before heading off down the ravine of House Brook, toward the lake. Dale also reports mink tracks on Curtis Road and his five resident

deer alive and well, passing through his place twice a day like clockwork, morning and evening.

Reptiles and Amphibians. Painted turtles were sunning themselves one chilly day near Stony Brook Road about April 10 and then Bonner saw some just over the Otis line near Route 23 April 17. Spotted salamanders began their breeding migrations April 2, making their way back to natal ponds. On wet nights they appeared as smooth sticks in the road, always oriented perpendicularly to the length of the highway. Frogs have been out these wet nights, also, much more recognizable than the salamanders, thanks to their upright posture, also because they jump. Peepers were singing at Ellen Pearson's pond April 10, and she was finding salamander eggs in her vernal pools by Easter. Bonner, Sudi, Cora, and Storrs Olds found salamander eggs in a vernal pool by the Land Trust trail on April 16 and later that day Bonner and Cora found some in a seasonal wet place near the east end of Lake Garfield. They also saw adult red-spotted newts in the lake which is newly filled up after its winter draw-down.

Other Creatures. On Easter Sunday, April 12, water striders were spotted on the brook below David and Beryl McAllester's place. Several Monterey gardeners reported black flies (also called, locally, "mayflies") buzzing about but not yet biting, really, by April 15. In the vernal pool by the Land Trust trail millions of mosquito larvae hung near the surface on April 16. By now they have may have been devoured by salamander larvae, or they may have emerged to welcome the Saturday morning Land Trust trail crews.

Heavy Breathing. One night in early April, at Ellen Pearson's, Kate Barnes woke in the middle of the night to the sound of heavy breathing. Her dog, who is part wolf, "went nuts." This is all we know.

A Trip to the Vet. On April 6 Teresa O'Brien of Tyingham Road or Town Hill Road, Otis, was taking a sick sheep to the vet. It occurred to her to also take along the gerbil, which had a tumor on its side. As she started out the driveway with the two ailing animals, she saw a large hawk perched on a low branch, about six inches above the ground, with its head tucked in an odd way. She got out of the car and approached with caution. The hawk fell backwards off the branch. Teresa arrived at the vet's with all three animals— and only the sheep came home again.

— Bonner J. McAllester

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POLICE REPORT

At last year's Annual Town Meeting, Monterey voters established full-time policing here for the first time since 1972. Chief Gareth Backhaus, a Monterey policeman for the past ten years and part-time chief since 1993, worked full-time from July of 1997 until last December, when he started a twenty-two-week training course in community policing developed by the Massachusetts Criminal Justice Training Council, and offered at the Regional Police Academy in Agawam. All full-time municipal police in the Commonwealth are required by law to receive this training, during which no active duty is allowed. Immediately following his graduation on April 24, Chief Backhaus will be back on the job here in Monterey.

Academy training involves a rigorous schedule of five long days every week. There is written homework and health and fitness training in addition to repeated practice of techniques for restraint and arrest, firearms training, patrol procedures—the usual police stuff. At the heart of the curriculum, as described in Academy literature, is the concept of community policing, “the principle that police are part of, not apart from, the community. The view that policing is an ‘us versus them’ proposition is totally contradictory to the major goals of the Academy. ...Without integrity there is no trust. And without trust there is no sense of community.”

On April 6 an afternoon training session at Springfield Police Academy began with an hour of parade-ground drill on a parking lot. According to Sgt. Cyrus Cox, a veteran of twenty-five years with the Massachusetts State Police who has been on the staff at the Academy for five years, the military model for police training is not nearly as dominant as it used to be, and today eighty-five percent of trainees have no military background. Still, men must have close-cropped haircuts, and trainees march in straight lines during the day as much as they walk, requesting “Permission, Sir!” of officers, and taking orders to “Carry on!”

Back inside a gym-sized cement block building, trainees prepared to prac-

tice defensive tactics. Each wore a light grey sweatshirt with his or her surname in large black letters front and back, most wore jeans, and shoes ranged from police duty black leather to running shoes and hiking boots. All wore their duty belts. On his, Chief Backhaus carried baton, handcuffs, a weighty red plastic replica of his Glock .45-caliber, thirteen-round automatic pistol, pepper spray, and two pair of latex gloves. They milled about for a while, then formed up and did some stretches, then (“At ease!”) they snacked on apples, bananas, and oranges (not doughnuts) as they waited for an instructor who was twenty minutes late.

Defensive tactics involves the repetition of prescribed commands and moves used to gain physical control over a suspect. The intent is to build a reflex, or “muscle memory” of how to handle certain situations. Class members worked with each other applying a forearm hold (suspect's hand bent forward from the wrist), and a hold whereby a light grip across a few fingers interlaced behind a suspect's back offers remarkable advantage. They practiced handcuffing, and taking down a suspect who resists. Outside in the parking lot, teams of three practiced apprehending a person suspected of carrying a concealed weapon. One officer trained his (dummy) firearm on the suspect and ordered him to lie face-down on the pavement, hands out, palms up, legs crossed at the ankle and head turned away; he kept the suspect under the gun from a few paces back while a second officer did a pat search and handcuffed him. The pistol, of course, was held in two hands, arms extended. This was not a shoot-from-the-hip atmosphere, and the command to “Get down! Get down now!” was shouted by some with chilling effect on a sunny spring afternoon. Relaxed camaraderie was evident, but so was the seriousness of the whole undertaking. The presence of guns and the reality of arrest—liberty denied—colored everything.

Monterey *feels* safely removed from urban violence, poverty, and abuse. Police work here has most to do with helping out, and Chief Backhaus encourages residents to call at any time. One resident found a baby fox, apparently lost from its

mother, and didn't know what to do (Gareth called an Environmental Police Officer). Another accidentally locked herself out of the house, and he came and found a way in. On the darker side, a Monterey woman told me of a period when she received disturbing anonymous phone calls whenever her husband left town on business. One day the call came minutes after her husband's car was out of sight. She called, and Gareth came right over, taking steps that left her feeling safe, despite an unsettling episode.

Sometimes the police need a resident's help. Say someone arrives in Monterey for the weekend late at night during a snowstorm, and can't get up his driveway. He parks as far off the road as he can, but the parked car is a hazard, and has to be moved. The chief may not know whose car it is, and New York, Jersey, or Connecticut plates may make it hard to find out. His options narrow. Next morning someone wakes up all set to go skiing, and instead has to reclaim his towed car, and pay the freight. Calling late at night would have saved everyone trouble.

Meanwhile, criminal danger does pop up, even in idyllic villages like Monterey. Several years ago, a Monterey resident was assaulted in his home. Chief Backhaus was first on the scene, followed soon by an Environmental Police Officer, Great Barrington police, and the state police. A suspect was taken into custody by state police after a confrontation lasting several hours. Chief Backhaus helped with the investigation that led to a criminal conviction and a twenty-two-year sentence, as well as the resolution of several unsolved local break-ins. Theft at unoccupied homes occurs wherever there is a seasonal and weekend population. Seven Monterey homes were broken into in FY (fiscal year) 1996, and three in FY1997.

Not long ago, a policeman in Egremont (where strict speed limit enforcement is renowned) made a routine traffic stop, and ended up arresting two persons wanted for crimes elsewhere, with a quantity of drugs in the car and a loaded handgun tucked into one man's belt. Traffic stops are the most dangerous thing cops do. At the same time, they're the common setting for encounters be-

tween ordinarily responsible citizens and police. Most people run a little late and drive too fast once in a while, or forget about inspection, or leave the wallet home. From the cop's point of view, when a dangerous person does materialize from among ordinary citizens, good training may mean everything to him, and to anyone else stumbling into that danger.

Full-time policing in Monterey was initiated by the Select Board, with unanimous support from the Finance and Salary Committees. In fiscal year 1997 (ending in June, 1997), part-time Chief Backhaus was paid \$6,942. In fiscal year 1998, now nearly ended, and the first with a full-time chief, he was paid \$33,820. This jump was not due solely to increased hours. Before the FY1998 budget was presented for voter approval, the Salary Committee reviewed all town officeholders' pay, comparing Monterey rates with those for comparable municipal jobs in other Massachusetts towns of similar size. The Committee found that Monterey's part-time police chief was radically underpaid, at \$8.90 per hour in FY1997, and recommended a rate of \$17.77 per hour, an increase of nearly one hundred percent.

The Finance Committee and Select Board weighed the Salary Committee's recommendations. On the one hand, the increased cost of paying the full-time chief is partially offset by a reduction of other policing costs (the budget line-item termed "police protection," and including part-time officers' pay, vacation replacement, court officer, etc.). On the other hand, the town incurred a one-time cost of \$1,800 to cover the full-time chief's mandatory Academy training—although the town is legally empowered to recoup this cost from the trainee. (This caveat is evidently intended to insure a measure of loyalty to the town.)

In the end, the total police department budget for fiscal year 1998, approved by voters after vigorous discussion a year ago, was \$47,560. The full-time chief's salary was based on a rate of \$16.26 per hour, still less than that recommended by the Salary Committee. Police protection, at \$13,740, was \$8,879 less expensive than in the previous fiscal

year under a part-time chief. In round numbers, it cost Monterey taxpayers \$20,000 last year to establish full-time local policing.

There are two further financial considerations, although no town official mentioned either as a factor in their calculations. First, towns with full-time police are eligible for certain federal and state grants dedicated to highway safety and community policing. Chief Backhaus has stated his intention to survey residents on police protection, and to apply for appropriate grants. Second, half the money collected for speeding tickets is local income. Records show a relative increase in the number of citations during the five months of Chief Backhaus' full-time service. According to Robert Liveratori of the Merit Rating Board at the state Department of Motor Vehicles, Monterey income from traffic citations during the period July of 1997 through February of 1998 totaled \$14,650.

Chief Backhaus said promoting safe traffic conditions overrides any eagerness to write tickets. He believes a ticket can be most effective in slowing down an unknown speeder passing through. A warning, or even just a chat, may be enough to slow down a Monterey resident. On a second encounter, a fine would be likely. There are more local complaints about speeding than about unreasonable speed traps.


Members of the Select Board are unanimous in their conviction that employing Chief Backhaus full-time is good for the town. It had been their sense that coverage with part-time local officers backed up by the state police was "thin." State police presence here has always been spotty and impersonal at best. In 1994, when two convicts escaped from a minimum-security prison in Connecticut, they were spotted in Monterey. For a full summer day, heavily armed state police raced around town, manned roadblocks, and followed

leads more or less on their own. Communication between local and state authorities was poor. The eventual arrest of both escapees in Monterey without incident was a piece of good luck. Some Monterey officials believe a full-time, fully trained local chief has a better chance to develop mutual respect with the state police.

Opponents of the change to full-time status generally regard the cost as excessive, and the need as marginal. They are comfortable with the protection afforded by part-time local officers and state police. Indeed, they feel that regional information readily available to state police gives them the edge anyway in solving crimes of break-in theft. Some residents feel the job was created "from the top down," and object on principle to government agencies that expand government function. This objection persists, despite the fact that the Select Board is surely the hot seat for complaints, and members of the present Board are confident that their initiative meets an expressed need.

—Peter Murkett

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WALTER A. ANDERSEN, 86

Walter Alfred Andersen, 86, of Monterey, died April 1 at Fairview Hospital. Born in Kiel, Germany, on December 5, 1911, son of Alfred W. and Henrietta Wilhelmina Sell Andersen, he attended schools in Germany.

During World War II, Mr. Andersen was in the cavalry and fought on horseback on the Russian front. He suffered frostbite in his feet, causing him to be sent back from the front, and possibly saving his life. He also served as a Norwegian-English interpreter for the U.S. Occupation Forces at the end of the war.

In 1953, he immigrated to the United States, living in Los Angeles, California, where he worked as operations manager for Meter Master Inc. for over twenty five years, retiring in 1983. He moved to Monterey the year he retired. His wife, the former Solveig Anthonson, whom he married in 1937, died in 1972. In 1980, he married the former Alice Orcutt Howell. Besides his wife, he leaves a son, Einar Andersen of Agura Hills, California; a stepson, Timothy Howell of Madison, Wisconsin; three stepdaughters, Abby Smith of Booth Bay Harbor, Maine, Elisabeth King of Monterey and Jennifer Howell-Van Ness of Mukilteo, Washington; fourteen grandchildren and a great-grandchild. Another son, Harald Andersen, died in an accident in 1977 while performing flight training for the Navy.



ARTHUR KYLE WING, JR.

Arthur Kyle Wing, Jr. an authority in early power and microwave tube technology, died on April 8, 1998 at the Sweetbrook Nursing Center in Williamstown, MA. He was 89. A native of Brooklyn, New York, he worked in vacuum tube research and development for Federal Telephone and Telegraph and RCA in the 1930's and during World War II. In 1944, he joined International Telephone and Telegraph Laboratories (ITT) and retired in 1972 as vice-president of engineering, ITT Electron Tube Division.

During his career with ITT he developed a large number of special purpose and microwave vacuum tubes. He was the holder of eleven patents on vacuum tube design and authored several articles in scientific and technical journals. In 1984 he was a recipient of the centennial medal for extraordinary achievement from the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers.

Born on July 1, 1908, he graduated from Phillips Exeter Academy and Yale University's Sheffield Scientific School, Class of 1930. He received an M.S. in electrical engineering from M.I.T. in 1931. Kyle Wing began to summer in Monterey with his family in the 1920's when his parents, Arthur and Jennie Selkregg Wing built their summer home on the south side of Lake Garfield. The home was sold to the Ives family in the 1950's Kyle met his wife, Phebe Adams, in Monterey and they were married in 1932. His children, grandchildren and great grandchildren continue to summer on Lake Garfield.

He is survived by his wife of 66 years, Phebe Adams Wing, of Lenox; a son Arthur K. Wing, III of Suffern, New York and a daughter, Delight Wing Dodyk of Ridgewood, New Jersey; five grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

Interment will be at a later date at the Old Center Cemetery, Monterey.

SALAMANDER SECRETS

People who walk around in the damp woods know a bit about salamanders. The ones we are most likely to notice are the flashy red efts, or newts, which are the juvenile stage of the eastern red-spotted salamander. The efts are graceful and slim, rather fast-moving (for a salamander), and can stand up high on their long legs. If you decide to pick one up for a closer look, squat down low to the ground first because the little creature may sprint right off your hand and fall.

Though many of us have loved the red efts since childhood (ours and theirs), we may have missed some larger cousins who never come out from under the leaves and damp earth, except in order to cross the road. These are the "mole salamanders," a family which includes our spotted salamanders which breed every spring in ponds and lakes and seasonal wet places called "vernal pools." Often these breeding places are the same ones from which the individual salamanders emerged as juveniles themselves. They come onto land at this stage, like the red efts, but the efts return to water to become aquatic adults, whereas the mole salamanders remain on land except at breeding time.

Breeding time in these parts takes place in late March and early April, whenever we get our first warm (over forty degrees Fahrenheit) rainy nights. Salamanders have to stay wet, even during their terrestrial phases, so they must wait for a wet night in order to travel, especially across road surfaces. This is when we see them, and it is worth stopping for a closer look, even though it's late at night and raining. Unlike the red efts, spotted salamanders won't leap off your hand. They are about 9 inches long, glossy black, and covered with large yellow spots, each with its unique pattern. Compared with the efts, spotted salamanders are solid-looking and earthy. They look primitive.

Salamanders are primitive. They are amphibians, a name which means "two lives" or "both lives" in Greek. This refers to a life in the water and a life on land, and biologists like to point out that the salamander has not changed its form or its ways for 100 million years. The eggs are laid in water, the larvae hatch there and remain as aquatic animals with feathery gills sprouting just behind their heads. As they reach the end of the larval stage, the salamanders metamorphose to a juvenile form, ready for life on land. Some have

well, the females come within a few hours and plunge in looking for the males.

Spotted salamanders do a courtship dance, in pairs, which consists of underwater circling, walking on the leaves on the bottom of the pool. From time to time, one by one, they float up to the surface for a gulp of air, then slowly drift down again. There will be some mutual nudging, and the male may rub his chin along the back of the female. After just the right amount of this, the male will be sufficiently stimulated to walk off with a flick of his tail and create

little clear jelly monuments like small push-pin tops called spermatophores. On the top of each one he leaves a package of hundreds of spermatozoa and the female follows along and finds the spermatophore which she climbs over and covers with her cloaca, thus taking in the spermatozoa and fertilizing her eggs. In a few hours she will lay round masses of fertilized eggs, due to hatch in about two or three

weeks, depending upon how fast the water warms up in the pool.

We call it "primitive," this amphibian life-cycle with its understated, ritualistic mating dance. Every year the salamanders go back home, following the ancient aquatic urge. We would be envious, I think, if we ever slowed down enough to notice the incredible stability of this 100-million-year-old plan.

— Bonner McAllester



lungs, and some rely solely upon oxygen absorption through the damp surface of the skin; the larval gills are absorbed.

Spotted salamanders eat worms and insects and stay hidden under leaves and in crevices in the woods. They hibernate through the winter and then make their breeding migrations to the nearest pond which is often their natal place. The males arrive ahead of the females and go right into the water to form groups of up to a hundred called "congresses." If all goes



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The Sandisfield Arts and Restoration committee is working to renovate the old Montville Synagogue on Hammertown Road for use as an arts and community center.

NEWS FROM OUR NEIGHBORS

Summer in Sandisfield

The Sandisfield Arts and Restoration Committee has released its summer 1998 schedule of events. The season opens with an Arts & Crafts Fair on May 30 at the Sandisfield Arts Center on Hammertown Road and Route 57 in Sandisfield. Attractions include food, games, raffle, silent auction, arts and crafts vendors, and children's entertainment by Bob Thomas. Funded by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, Mr. Thomas will perform "When the Animals Danced," an enchanting series of participatory stories and dances. Admission to the fair is free.

On June 27, internationally acclaimed pianist, Grant Johannesen, will appear in a benefit concert at the Lenox Town Hall at 8 p.m. Mr. Johannesen spent many summers in Sandisfield and is returning to help fund the restoration of the Sandisfield Arts Center.

The balance of the programs will be held at the Sandisfield Arts Center on Saturday evenings at 8 p.m. The Pickwell Brothers will perform on July 18. On August 15, Hilda Banks Shapiro will appear in "Jazz Standards: The Music You Love." Thunderbay Ensemble and Pleiades will perform "Visits with Emily Dickinson & Georgia O'Keefe" on September 12. The season ends on September 26th, with Sandisfield native, Anne Hoffman, reading from her new book on the history of Sandisfield.

Proceeds from these programs will go to fund the \$300,000 arts center restoration. The building, originally a Baptist Meeting House, dates back to 1830. It was used as a Synagogue from the 1920's through the 1960's. Recently, the Congregation Beth Abraham generously deeded the building to Sandisfield for use as an arts and community center.

Composed entirely of volunteers, the Sandisfield Arts and Restoration Committee is currently researching grants and sponsorships to save this historically significant building. For tickets to the events, call (413) 258-4848.

— Liana Toscanini

THE OBSERVER

March 25 - April 25



B. M. A.

High temp. (3/31)	83.8°
Low temp. (4/11)	23.4°
Wind chilled low temp. (3/26)	6.8°
Avg. high temp.	59.9°
Avg. low temp.	34.9°
Avg. temp.	47.4°
Precipitation (rain 13 days)	3.02"
High bar. press. (3/26)	30.35"
Low bar. press. (4/9)	29.34"
High wind gust (3/28)	30 mph.

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COMMUNITY DINNER

The last Community Dinner took place on Thursday, March 26, with about fifty people in attendance. Ellen Pearson presented some video clips of Monterey's 1989 "Monterey Day" parade and spoke about her impressions.

The next Community Dinner will take place on Thursday, May 7, at 6:30, in the social room of the Meetinghouse/Church, on Main Road. May is National Health Awareness Month, and Kim Hines will present a public television documentary on Gould Farm. Kim is in charge of community relations at Gould Farm (among other things), and she will discuss Gould Farm, the Roadside Store and their place in the Monterey community.

Everyone is invited. Bring a dish, bring the family, but most of all - bring yourself!

— David Bach

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7-9 p.m.

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Eager egg hunters at Gould Farm enjoyed discovering irrefutable evidence of the Easter Bunny. From left to right they are, Graham Hines, Mason Hines, Madigan Hines, Kerry Synder, Emi Rosenberg, Fiona Lacey, Kayla Synder (in front), and Anna Rosenberg.



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CORRECTION

In the March issue of the *News*, in the Thomas Vickerman obituary the last paragraph incorrectly read "The Thomas Goewey Memorial Fund." It should be "The Thomas Vickerman Memorial trust fund has been set up at Berkshire Bank to provide for the children's education."



PERSONAL NOTES

The leaves are on the trees, and some of us have already turned our gardens. Who could doubt that spring is truly here, and the Memorial Day weekend a few short weeks away? Let's hope that the weather is as wonderful as last year when we all had such a good time celebrating Monterey's 150th Anniversary.

Birthday greetings this month go out to **Cora Baker** on May 3, **Douglas Brown** on May 6, **Eoin Higgins** on May 8, **Tarsi Dunlop** on May 9, **Judah Piepho** on May 17, **Deirdre Higgins**, **Lincoln Lipsky**, and **Tess Dunlop** on May 22, **Chris Goldfinger** on May 26, and **Alexandra Newman** on May 29th.

Happy Anniversary on May 6 to **Arnold and Kay Pratt**, on May 7 to **Bill and Jeanne Zad**, and to **Alf and Lena Pedersen** on May 22.

Congratulations to New Marlborough Central School first grader **Bennett "Buddy" Ferris** who received a second-place ribbon in Troop 49's Pinewood Derby, Tiger Cubs division. Buddy designed and built his #42 Rocket Boom! two-seater, driven by two Lego drivers. It was solar powered using a solar decal, and had weights and roll bars that were provided by Walter at the Post Office, from a box filled with bric-a-brac and other essential post office equipment. This victory qualifies Buddy for the county-wide Pin-

ewood Derby Finals to be held in North Adams. Good luck Buddy!

Debby Rankin writes from Oregon to let old friends know how the **Rankin-Heald** family has fared since their days in Monterey. After several years in Portland they are beginning to think of themselves as Westerners, but, all the same, their sons seem to be heading in an Eastern direction. **David** is a freshman at Williams College, and his younger brother, **Mike**, spent spring break looking at colleges in this part of the country.

Congratulations to **Ira** (of Monterey softball fame), **Robyn** and big brother **Zachary Transport** of Great Neck, New York and Tyringham Road, on the birth of **Annie Rebecca Transport**, who was born on February 25, 1998.

For two weeks in April **Lincoln Lipsky** and family enjoyed hosting **Emily Masson**, an exchange student from Lyon, France. Emily had a formidable schedule which included trips to Boston and New York, as well as touring the Berkshires.

We enjoy hearing your news, and passing on birthday and anniversary greetings. If you have any you would like to share, please drop me a line at P.O. Box 351, Monterey, MA 01245, or give me a call at 528-6691, if possible, before the twelfth of each month. Thank you so much.

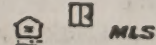
— Ann Higgins

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CALENDAR

Sundays, AA meetings, 9 a.m., in the Monterey Firehouse, Main Road.

Saturday, May 2, Annual Town Meeting, 9:30 a.m., Monterey Firehouse, Main Road.

Thursday, May 7, Community Dinner, 6:30 p.m. Meetinghouse/Church Social Room, Kim Hines of Gould Farm will present a television documentary on Gould Farm. Bring a dish to share.

Saturday, May 9, Children's Health Program information on MassHealth, low or no-cost insurance program, 10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Town Hall.

Monday, May 18, South County La Leche League meets at the Guthrie Center, Great Barrington. Free advice and support for breast-feeding. For questions and directions call Maureen at 528-6619.

Tuesday, May 19, free cholesterol and blood pressure screenings, 9-10:30 a.m., Town Hall basement, open to all age groups.

Friday, May 22, Children's Health Program at Gould Farm, meet at 10:30 a.m. at the red barns. Wear boots and bring a snack.

Friday, May 22, Monterey Council on Aging luncheon, noon, Town Hall basement.

Saturday, May 23, Bidwell House museum opens for the season with an Heirloom Tomato Planting workshop at 1 p.m. Admission is \$3 for adults and \$1 for children. Call 528-6888 for more information.

Saturday, May 23, Square and contradancing 8:30-11:30 p.m., at the Sheffield Grange, Route 7, Sheffield, Mass. Music by Mountain Laurel, calling by Joe Baker. All dances are taught and beginners and children are welcome. Refreshments served at intermission. Adults \$5, children \$2. Information 413-528-9385 or 518-329-7578.

Monday, May 25, Memorial Day Parade, 1 p.m., begins at the junction of Route 23 and Sandisfield Road and marches to Firehouse.

Saturday, May 30, Sandisfield Arts & Crafts Fair, 10a.m.-5 p.m., Sandisfield Arts Center, Route 57 and Hammertown Road.

A LAST WORD

Take a stand for SBRSD students.

It is difficult not to be alarmed when hearing the litany of financial problems that surfaced in the Southern Berkshire Regional School District this past year. First came the news that the district was delinquent in its Medicare payments, then the disclosure that there was a \$600,000 budget deficit, then the report that the state has been overpaying on its reimbursements to the school district, and finally, the discovery that some member towns may have been incorrectly assessed for their portion of the budget. Although it has been ascertained that there was "no criminal wrong doing," I think it is safe to say that mismanagement by the previous administration is responsible for putting the district in these dire financial straits.

This year's school budget has come in at \$6,177,923, which is approximately \$194,731 over last year's budget of \$5,983,192, and contains about \$100,000 in deficit reduction spending. Our new superintendent, Bill Cooper, school committee members, and representatives from the finance boards from each of the five towns, have all worked hard to create a budget that is lean enough to deal with the current fiscal crisis without devastating educational programs.

In school-speak, "programs" are what the students experience six hours a day, 180 days a year. When problems arise in

the school district it is inevitably the students who suffer. Schools are unique in that their constituency has a limited ability to impact the quality of the service that they receive; the students depend on those of us in the larger community to advocate for them, and make changes when necessary.

It's obvious that changes are necessary. I believe that superintendent Cooper and school committee members are doing their best to solve the problems, both financial and educational, that face our district. However, they cannot do it alone—they need our support. Monterey can take a stand for the students of Southern Berkshire by voting to fully fund the school district budget. Let's keep a vision of educational excellence alive for our children instead making them bear the brunt of past incompetence.

— Maggie Leonard
Editor, *Monterey News*

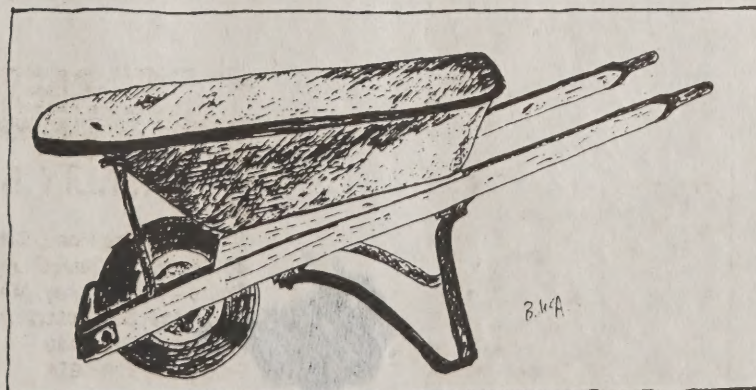
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Contributions from local artists this month: MaryKate Jordan p.5, Bonner McAllester pgs. 19,20, and 23.

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